

Christmas In Kandahar

Story by Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson

Photos by Spc. C. Elijah Spencer

211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan—The grim reality of war is that soldiers fighting on the fields of battle are oftentimes far away from home and family, left to spend anniversaries, birthdays, and other special occasions in some remote part of the world. So it was for the servicemembers spending Christmas in Kandahar, Afghanistan. However, thanks to the creative spirit of the soldiers on base, key leaders, the food preparation teams, and the Morale, Welfare, and Recreational folks, Christmas on Kandahar Air Field was celebrated in grand style.

The spirit of the season was evident well before Christmas Day all across the base. Lights, decorations, and Christ-



Soldiers of 2-22 Inf. show the military version of Santa and his sleigh.

mas trees were proudly displayed in tents and offices. The Dining Facilities were decked out in such splendid fashion; they would have rivaled anything back home.

Christmas Eve was ushered in by the journey of the three wise men, riding camels down Screaming Eagle Blvd. But there was one minor technicality. The three wise men, played by Sgt. Majors Brad Pirmantgen, Dennis Jallah,

and John Gurganus were riding only two camels. Apparently, one camel came down with a persistent flatulence disorder. The men, being wise, thought it prudent to not subject their audience to the unpleasantness of the camel's sordid diet. The second camel, forced to tote the considerable load of Gurganus and Jallah,

See Christmas pg. 3



Spc. Clifford A. Corpuz torques the aft transmission of a CH-47 during phase maintenance

Bounty Hunters Keep Aviation On the Up and Up

Story and Photos by
Spc. C. Elijah Spencer

211th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Kandahar, Afghanistan — Task Force Knighthawk has one of the largest aviation fleets within the Afghan theater of operation. They utilize an arsenal of aircrafts which includes AH-64 Apaches, CH-47 Chinooks, and UH-60 Blackhawks. Each unit in the task force that mans these aircraft is responsible for the operation and maintenance of their respec-

tive birds. However, there is one unit that isn't responsible for just one particular aircraft. Bravo Company, 193rd Aviation Maintenance Battalion of the Hawaii National Guard, better known as the Bounty Hunters, are responsible for the phase maintenance of every single aircraft used by Task Force Knighthawk.

Knighthawk crew chiefs are responsible for the upkeep and airworthiness of

See AVM
pg. 6



From the Top

Army leader lauds commitment, sacrifice of Soldiers serving in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (Army News Service, Dec. 24, 2003) – Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee surprised Soldiers serving in Afghanistan with a holiday visit Dec. 21.

While in Afghanistan, Brownlee met with senior leaders, conducted sensing sessions with Soldiers and received operational updates, including an update from Lt. Gen. David Barno, U.S. commander in Afghanistan, regarding the recent opening of a major highway linking Kandahar to Kabul.

"This highway, and other highways and infrastructure improvements being made throughout the country are very important," Barno said. "It will facilitate commerce and increased foreign investment for Afghanistan. The new highway should improve security and continue to unify the country by linking remote regions to the capitol."

Brownlee lauded the outstanding commitment of Soldiers serving in Afghanistan, reminding the troops that the American people are fully aware of their tremendous sacrifice and the sacrifices of their families as well.

"I want you to know that America is very grateful for your service and your sacrifice here in Afghanistan, Brownlee said. The capture of Saddam Hussein is important, but the war on terror is not about one individual. We're defeating terrorists here in Afghanistan and in other places in the world who seek to

harm the American people, and are enemies of freedom."

Currently, major media focuses are on operations in Iraq as the main effort in the war on terrorism. But rogue elements in Afghanistan are waging attempts to disrupt progress made by coalition forces. Elements of the defeated, displaced Taliban regime, as well as a lingering Al Qaeda presence, continue to pose a threat to long-term security in Afghanistan.

According to Brig. Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of Combined Joint Task Force 7, the remaining Taliban and Al Qaeda elements in Afghanistan are well financed and determined to thwart any progress made by the coalition or the established local governments.

"There is increasing evidence that suggests terrorist tactics from Iraq are being applied here," Garrett said. "But our Soldiers dominate every tactical engagement, we're evolving and adapting to enemy tactics."

"We faced a very opportunistic enemy here in Afghanistan that's becoming more sophisticated. Our Soldiers have been terrific, often working in treacherous terrain to destroy, disrupt and deny the enemy sanctuary," Austin said.

"The war on terrorism began here in Afghanistan, and what you're doing here is vitally important," Brownlee said.

Kandahar Fire Department Tip of the Week

Outdoor cooking equipment, barbecue grills, etc., will not be used or stored inside billeting. Use of such devices shall be limited to 50 feet from all fabric structures and 25 feet from an all-wood structure. Damp charcoal will spontaneously ignite and burn. Do not discard in garbage cans, inside or near buildings.

In case of fire or emergency, contact the KAF Fire Department hotline at 303 582-3020

Submitted by TSgt Dean Case, Assistant Fire Chief



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"Coalition efforts here have dismantled a brutal regime that oppressed over 23 million people," Brownlee said. "Now, you're helping to train the Afghan National Army, rebuilding infrastructure, creating the stable and secure environment that will enable this region to achieve long deserved freedom and opportunity."

"The holidays are a time for giving. America's Soldiers – active, national guard and reserve – many deployed around the world in harm's way, are giving the most precious gift of all, themselves and their service," he said. "Thank you for what you're doing. The American people are truly grateful for your service."





Spc. Zia Ul Haq wins the santa contest with his Afghan santa impression

Christmas Cont.

protested by bucking wildly, effectively throwing Gurganus off his tail end. Jallah, on the other hand, rode the stampeding beast for the full eight seconds until its handlers were able to gain control of it.

Dressed in traditional "wise men" garb, the three biblical gift givers fed the disgruntled animal a cupcake and were able to complete their journey without further incident, much to the amusement of KAF's residents. At one point along the journey, Pirmantgen yelled to an aviator that he should trade his helicopter in for a camel. His reason being the camel used a lot less gas and would save money on flight hours, albeit a little slower mode of transportation. Wise men indeed.

Other activities included a vehicle-decorating contest, a Santa Clause competition, and various talent shows and karaoke, all with food and dancing. The vehicle-decorating contest was won by a group of ingenuous soldiers from 2-22 Infantry Battalion. They decorated a HMMWV from top to bottom with wrapping paper, simulating Santa's sled. A team of nine men, dressed up in the latest polypro reindeer fashion, complete with antlers pulled the vehicle. And yes,

Rudolph's red nose lighted their path.

The Santa Clause competition was equally creative, as top honors went to Specialist Zia Haq from the 211th Public Affairs. Haq was adorned in a fire engine red Afghan outfit replete with white turban and a black beard made from a PT stocking cap. He completed the look by donning a pair of the Army's fashionable "birth-control" brown-rimmed eyeglasses

and stuffing his mid section with pillows to give off the desired robust appearance. AAFES awarded gift certificates to the top three contestants. The Hajji Santa Clause as he was branded, danced and entertained the jubilant crowd late into the evening as the servicemembers basked in the season spirit, enjoying a well deserved break in the war on terrorism.

On Christmas day, the singing of carols could be heard in the base chapel and the Dining Facility put out a Christmas meal fit for a king. It was complete with turkey, ham, roast, dressing, and all the trimmings. The soldiers feasted to their hearts content. The sounds and smiles of Christmas abounded as the efforts of so many culminated into bringing a touch of home to this barren land. As dusk fell on KAF, soldiers settled in to call loved ones at home just waking up to start their Christmas day. Because of the sacrifice of these men and women, and many others like them fighting so far from home, there will be many Christmas' to come, basked in the bright light and hope of freedom.



These two soldiers attend a Christmas party as Rudolph and the Baby New Year



WORLD NEWS



Suicide Bomber Kills Five Afghan Agents

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber killed five Afghan intelligence agents Sunday when he detonated explosives hidden under his clothes while sitting inside their vehicle after his arrest, police said.

The intelligence agents detained the man near the capital's airport when he detonated his explosives inside their sport utility vehicle, Kabul police chief Baba Jan said.

The suspect, who also died, was a foreigner wanted by Afghan authorities, but the police chief did not identify him or his nationality.

"They had just arrested him with explosives," Jan said near the scene. "This guy had more explosives on his body and when they took him inside the car, he blew himself up."

The deadly bombing was the latest in a series of violent incidents since delegates from around the country began meeting in the capital to craft a new constitution for Afghanistan.

Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, who heads the landmark constitutional convention, said Sunday he was presenting a new draft of the historic document after about two weeks of wrangling over such issues as

women's rights, Islam, and the balance of power in a future government.

Militants have fired five rockets at the city, damaging building but causing no injuries, since the grand council, or loya jirga, began. On Christmas Day, a bomb demolished a wall outside a house used by United Nations staff in Kabul. No one was hurt.

The U.S. military has warned that Taliban insurgents and their allies wanted to disrupt the gathering, which is protected by hundreds of Afghan troops and international peacekeepers.

At the scene of Sunday's incident, police quickly cordoned off the road while fire crews doused the burning wreckage.

Jan blamed militants from al-Qaida and the Taliban, the hardline Islamic regime ousted by a U.S.-led coalition in late 2001.

"All the time, they are making their plans from the south and southeast of the country and they are carrying out these activities in Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan," Jan said. "They are the enemies of Afghanistan."



Meat From Infected Cow Went to 8 States

By EMILY GERSEMA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Meat from a Holstein sick with mad cow disease has now reached retail markets in eight states and one territory, but still poses no health risk, Agriculture Department officials said Sunday.

Dr. Kenneth Petersen, an Agriculture Department veterinarian, said investiga-

tors have determined that some of the meat from the diseased dairy cow slaughtered Dec. 9 in Washington state went to Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Guam. Earlier, officials had said most of the meat went to Washington and Oregon, with lesser amounts to California and Nevada, for distribution to consumers.

"The recalled meat represents essentially zero risk to consumers," said Petersen, of the USDA's food safety agency.

He said the parts most likely to carry infection - the brain, spinal cord and lower intestine - were removed before the meat from the infected cow was cut and processed for human consumption.

Mad cow disease, officially called bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is a concern because humans who eat brain or spinal matter from an infected cow can develop a related brain-wasting illness, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. In Britain, 143 people died of it after an outbreak of mad cow in the 1980s.

Despite their assurances of food safety, federal officials have taken the precaution of recalling 10,000 pounds of meat from the infected cow and from 19 other cows slaughtered Dec. 9 at Vern's Moses Lake Meat Co., in Moses Lake, Wash.

Officials say they are still recovering meat and won't know how much has been returned until later this week.

Petersen said: "We expect by now that many of the customers who may have purchased some of this meat have been notified by the grocery chain or other store where perhaps they purchased it. If not, they can contact those stores" related to the recall.

Petersen said the slaughtered cow was deboned at Midway Meats in Centralia, Wash., and sent Dec. 12 to two other plants, Willamette Valley Meat and Interstate Meat, both near Portland, Ore. Petersen has said that much of the meat



— Cont on next pg.



WORLD NEWS

Cow cont.

is being held by those facilities.

Willamette also received beef trimmings - parts used in meats such as hamburger. Officials say those were sold to some three dozen small, mom-and-pop Asian and Mexican facilities in Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada.

Supermarket chains in the West - Albertsons, Fred Meyer, Safeway and WinCo Foods - have voluntarily removed ground beef products from the affected distributors. Safeway has said it will look for another supplier.

Despite assurances that American beef is safe, Japan and more than two dozen countries have blocked U.S. beef imports. Jordan and Lebanon joined the list on Sunday. U.S. beef industry officials this week estimated they've lost 90 percent of their export market because of the bans.

U.S. agriculture officials arrived Sunday in Japan to discuss maintaining beef trade even as the United States investigates how the Holstein in Washington state got sick.

Dr. Ron DeHaven, chief veterinarian for USDA, said Sunday that science has shown certain meat cuts are fairly safe from infection. Among those are whole cuts without bones, such as beef steaks, roast, liver, and ground beef from labeled cuts like chuck or round.

DeHaven said this suggests the trade restrictions "are not well-founded in science."

Investigators have tentatively traced the first U.S. cow with mad cow disease to Canada. This could help determine the scope of the outbreak and might even limit the economic damage to the American beef industry.

The tentative finding traced the cow to Alberta, the same Canadian province

where scientists found a lone cow infected with the illness in May.

DeHaven stressed that officials still haven't confirmed this because U.S. records outlining the animal's history do not match ones in Canada. Canadian officials have said it was premature to reach a firm conclusion.

The department said DNA tests will help resolve the matter.

Canadian documents show the cow had two calves before it arrived in the United States, contrary to U.S. records which said it had never born calves.

Also, Canadian documents say the diseased cow was 6 1/2-years-old, but U.S. records say it was younger, around 4- and 4 1/2-years-old.

The cow's age is significant because it may have been born before the United States and Canada in 1997 banned certain feed that is considered the most likely source of infection.

A cow gets infected by eating feed containing tissue from the spine or brain of an infected animal. Farmers used to feed their animals such meal to fatten them.

The FDA is looking into whether the cow ate contaminated feed - a difficult task because the animal may have been infected by feed it ate years before it appeared sick. BSE can incubate for four to five years.

Dr. Stephen Sundlof, head of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, said it takes as little as half a gram of infected material to sicken an animal.

"Even if a small amount amount of brain or central nervous system (material) were to get into cattle feed, there is the potential for even that very small dose to result in the disease," Sundlof said.

Officials are less certain how much would infect a human. "It's not known what dose would infect humans, but it would higher for humans than for cattle," Sundlof said.



Armstrong Named AP Male Athlete of Year

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lance Armstrong was honored Sunday as The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year, the second straight year he's won the award voted on by sports writers and broadcasters. For Armstrong, 2003 was a year of personal and professional struggles and triumph.

Divorce divided his family. A crash, dehydration and some admittedly poor riding nearly cost him a record-tying fifth straight Tour de France title.

But just when his dominance of one of world's most grueling sports events teetered near its end, Armstrong fought off Jan Ullrich of Germany by 62 seconds to put himself in position to become the first rider to win six in a row in 2004.

"It was a tough year and hard Tour," Armstrong said. "Professionally, it was as successful as any year. Personally, it was a very tough year, for more than just myself. I tried to work through it the best I could. The personal stuff is behind now."





Spc. Gabayan works on a UH-60 engine

their aircraft and they do an excellent job ensuring that nothing goes wrong while in flight. However, taking the aircraft apart and inspecting every component during phase maintenance is a totally different ball game. The 66 soldiers of Bravo 193rd have been stationed at Kandahar Air Field (KAF) for four months and phase maintenance is just one of many hats that is worn by these skilled aircraft technicians.

The 193rd arrived at KAF with over 40 tons of equipment, enabling them to handle jobs ranging from welding, avionics, and even hydraulics. They also have their own supply shop, stocked with the most in demand parts and components. Everything from ordering and receiving, to repairing and installation, happens through the diligent and skilled hands of the Bounty Hunters' 66 soldiers.

Bravo 193rd works day and night to ensure that Task Force Nighthawk remain mission ready and able to accomplish any aerial missions needed. However, the work doesn't stop there. The 193rd also helps anyone on KAF that may have a need for one of their repair shop's capabilities. The repair shops can handle a myriad of tasks such as fabricating tools for a specific job or repairing broken parts of an engine.

"Anything we can

do, we do" said 1st Sgt. James D. Ballie, Aviation Forward 1st Sgt, from Wahiawa, Hawaii. "We help everybody."

Each repair shop in the row of ISU-90 portable containers, called Kamehameha Lane, representing the Hawaiian king responsible for uniting the Hawaiian islands, is also uniting the servicemembers of Task Force Knighthawk. Their diligence, persistence, and ability to get the job done no matter what the circumstance, brings them together.

According to WO2 Russell L. Bishop the main focus of the Bounty Hunters is, "... to enhance the operational readiness of Task Force Knighthawk."

Maj. Margaret E. Rains, Company Commander of the unit, excitedly concurred with Bishop. "Yes, operational readiness is the main effect of the 193rd, it's a major factor of what we do here, and our top priority."

Bravo Company's 66 soldiers work on a rotating shift, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They ensure that whatever is broken will get fixed as quickly and efficiently as humanly possible. Despite the long hours and a constant battle rhythm, the soldiers of Bravo 193rd still get time to attend to their personal

needs.

"We don't feel overworked at all," said Spc. Geoffrey J. Gabayan, an engine technician. "This is our Job and we like what we do."

Overall, the Bravo Bounty Hunters find themselves fortunate to be stationed at KAF, considering this is the first time the unit has been deployed since 1968 for the Vietnam War. The lessons and theater specific tactics these soldiers have learned here can easily be passed on to the next aviation maintenance unit because the other half of Bravo Company will be replacing them. Maj. Rains communicates with the rear detachment on a regular basis and conveys vital information to better equip the incoming unit for problems that may occur during mobilization and deployment to Afghanistan.

Like the Fires of Kilauea, the unit is always pressing forward to get the job done. Nothing can stop these Hawaiian warriors from achieving their goal. Their motto, "Strike while the iron is hot!" is personified through the soldiers' persistence and dedication; working to ensure that the operational readiness level of Task Force Knighthawk remains one of the most effective aerial tools in Task Force Warrior's Arsenal.



Spc. Eugene Winchester works on a CH-47 engine during maintenance



SPORTS



Eagles Down Skins to Clinch Playoff Bye

By JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb completed 23 of 32 passes for 242 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another score Saturday night in a 31-7 victory over the Washington Redskins that clinched the Eagles' third consecutive NFC East title.

In other games Saturday, the New England Patriots shut out the Buffalo Bills 31-0 to earn a first-round bye in their quest for a second Super Bowl championship in three seasons; and the Seattle Seahawks squeaked past the San Francisco 49ers 24-17 to keep their postseason hopes alive.

The Eagles (12-4) secured a much-needed off week to rest their injured players; running back Brian Westbrook joined the list when he tore a triceps muscle in the first half. Philadelphia will have home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs if St. Louis loses to Detroit on Sunday.

The Redskins (5-11) lost 10 of their last 12 and finished with their worst record since going 3-13 in 1994, and there is

rampant speculation over the future of coach Steve Spurrier.

Spurrier has said the franchise needs to undergo significant changes, but he had refused to be specific about his plans until the season was over.

Among Washington's lowlights: The team broke the franchise record for penalties in a season, committing nine to finish with 124 and surpass the mark of 122 set in a 12-game season in 1948.

McNabb moved impeccably in the pocket, finding open receivers on the run as the Eagles scored touchdowns on their first three drives to take a 21-7 halftime lead.

He was also savvy enough to spot tight end Chad Lewis completely uncovered to the right on a second-and-goal at the 3. With the Redskins' defense confused, McNabb took a quick snap and hit Lewis for the easy touchdown for the game's first score.

McNabb strolled across the goal line on a 1-yard bootleg to make it 14-0 and celebrated by doing his version of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" dance. The 96-yard drive was kept alive by a third-down illegal-contact penalty on safety Todd Franz.

McNabb then hit Freddie Mitchell with an 8-yard TD pass following a fumble by Redskins quarterback Tim Hasselbeck deep in Philadelphia territory. In the second half, McNabb threw an 11-yard TD screen to Correll Buckhalter, who scored with an outstretched dive for the pylon.

McNabb completed passes to 10 receivers, including himself. One of his passes was batted back to him by LaVar Arrington, although the catch was a bad decision that resulted in a 7-yard loss. McNabb was over the 100-yard mark with room to spare in the first quarter, completing seven of his first nine passes, including a 40-yarder to Todd Pinkston.

Rock Cartwright's 1-yard second-quarter run was Washington's only score.

Bruce Smith, the Redskins' defensive end

and NFL sack king was honored at half-time of his final game. The cries of "Bruuuuuce!" turns to boos when Smith thanked owner Dan Snyder, who has overseen four consecutive non-winning seasons. The 40-year-old Smith finished his 19-year career with 200 sacks, breaking Reggie White's mark of 198.

The Redskins were outscored 58-7 in their final two home games, both against NFC East teams. Dallas beat them 27-0 two weeks ago. The Eagles traveling fan contingent was so large that linebacker Keith Adams was able to go to the end zone and lead cheers during a break in play in the first half.



Oklahoma Arrives for Sugar Bowl Prep

MARY FOSTER
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Oklahoma Sooners arrived in New Orleans on Saturday determined to avoid off-field distractions as they prepare for the Sugar Bowl against LSU.

The No. 3 Sooners got to town a day ahead of No. 2 LSU, and planned to get down to work quickly for the Jan. 4 game that will determine the BCS champion.

"We've always been very good in the past with our players doing the right thing and being where they need to be," coach Bob Stoops said. "Hopefully that will continue."

The Oklahoma players, coaches and others stepped quickly past the Dixie Land band and onto buses taking them to their hotel. The Sooners then practiced in the Superdome.

——— **Cont** next pg.



SPORTS Continued

LSU was scheduled to arrive Sunday from nearby Baton Rouge.

Oklahoma has plenty of reason to look forward to getting back on the field after losing to Kansas State on Dec. 6 in the Big 12 title game.

Until that 35-7 loss, the Sooners (12-1) were everyone's choice for the championship. The lopsided loss dropped them behind No. 1 Southern Cal and LSU, however, and set up a chance for a split championship.

"You're always eager after something like that to get back and redeem yourself," quarterback Jason White said. "But we've had to wait for a month now. I think that's really fueled our team throughout the practice we had at home and this practice this week."

The team is looking forward to hitting Bourbon Street, seeing the French Quarter, maybe walking along the Mississippi River, White said. But fun isn't what they're focused on.

"We'll get to go out and see the city and stuff, but we know why we're here," White said. "We've got a lot of stuff to prove to ourselves. So we'll get down to business."

The players have been cautioned about the distractions and the possible problems that could snag their road to the big game, said linebacker Teddy Lehman.

"Everyone understands that, but we're not the type of team that's going to go out and get ourselves in trouble," Lehman said. "Everyone understands what you can do, and it's not just New Orleans, any place is like that if you don't have guys on your team that care about their team more than they care about themselves. I think we understand what we need to do."

The Sooners began answering questions about the possibility of a split championship as soon as they stepped off the plane.

With the No. 1 Trojans try-

ing to win The Associated Press title in the Rose Bowl against Michigan, and Oklahoma still No. 1 in the BCS rankings, there could be a split title for the first time since the BCS was started in 1998.

"We don't know if there's going to be a split championship yet," White said. "Nothing's decided yet."



Patriots Trample Bills 31-0

By The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady and the New England Patriots beat the Buffalo Bills 31-0 on Saturday in the regular-season finale after losing the opener to them by the same score.

Brady threw four touchdown passes to four receivers in the first half - after throwing four interceptions in the loss in Buffalo - and New England rolled into the playoffs with a franchise-best 12-game winning streak.

The Patriots (14-2) had their best regular season ever and earned a first-round bye in their quest for a second Super Bowl championship in three seasons.

The Bills (6-10) lost seven of their last nine games in the last game of coach Gregg Williams' three-year contract. He never took them to the playoffs, and an

announcement about his future is expected this week.

Brady went 21-for-32 for 204 yards with no interceptions. Buffalo's Drew Bledsoe completed just 12 of 29 passes for 83 yards and one interception and was sacked three times. Seahawks 24, 49ers 17

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Matt Hasselbeck passed for 315 yards and threw scoring passes to Koren Robinson and Alex Bannister to keep Seattle's postseason hopes alive.

Hasselbeck and Shaun Alexander came up with just enough big plays to give the Seahawks (10-6) their second road victory of the season and a season sweep of the 49ers.

Now the Seahawks need Minnesota to lose at Arizona, or Denver to beat Green Bay at Lambeau Field on Sunday. Seattle also could get in if Dallas loses at New Orleans, kicking off a complicated scenario that would eliminate the Packers.

Jed Weaver and Cedrick Wilson caught TD passes from Jeff Garcia for the 49ers (7-9). San Francisco dropped just its second home game of the season with a non-existent rushing game and a fragile defense that couldn't stop Hasselbeck or Alexander, who rushed 60 of his 85 yards in the fourth quarter.

The Seahawks went ahead 21-17 late in the third on Robinson's diving 30-yard TD catch, which was upheld after instant-replay review. Robinson had six catches for 85 yards.



HEADLINERS

Nude Man Pulled From Chimney on Christmas

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A naked man got stuck in the chimney of a bookstore early Christmas morning. Don't worry, it wasn't Santa Claus. The 34-year-old man was treated Thursday for bruises and abrasions at Hennepin County Medical Center after being found naked and lodged in the furnace flue at Uncle Hugo's Bookstore. He was expected to be charged with attempted burglary on Friday.

"He was lucky," said police Lt. Mike Sauro. "He was only stuck in that chimney for a few hours. It's kind of a happy ending, because if he had been in there until that store opened Friday morning, it's my judgment he would have died. "He doesn't appear to be a hard-core criminal, just stupid."

Police suspect that the man was drunk when he climbed atop the one-story building and removed all his clothes to help squeeze into the chimney. He then started to slide down the 12-by-12-inch chimney shaft, Sauro said. "He's not Santa Claus," Sauro said. "He's a really skinny guy. And he's lucky he didn't get cooked."

The man told police that he entered the chimney about 1 a.m. Thursday to retrieve keys he accidentally dropped down the shaft. A passer-by called police around 9 a.m. Thursday, after hearing screams for help coming from inside the store. Firefighters broke into the chimney with sledgehammers and freed the man.

"The store is pretty well torn up," said owner Don Blyly, who came in Thursday to hang up signs for a sale to begin Friday. "This is not what I came in here for today, but that's what I have to deal with

Model, 2, Seeks Lost Wages in Mishap

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — A 2-year-old model and actor who cut his head at a playground is seeking unspecified lost wages and other compensation from the city.

Konrad Mader of Greenwich was running toward a treehouse at a playground Nov. 4 when he crashed into a railing, according to a claim filed last week by his mother and reported Friday by The Advocate of Stamford. The blond toddler received several stitches. Deena Mader, the boy's mother, did not specify how much she is seeking on behalf of her son.

In a letter to officials, she demanded compensation for medical bills, pain and suffering and a "lost wage amount due to his inability to audition or take modeling or commercial jobs while his head heals."

Mader blamed the boy's injury on a green railing, which she said blends in with the landscaping. Mader said the railing should be painted a brighter color. "This accident was preventable had the railings and safety measures been correct at this park," Mader wrote in her claim. Tom Cassone, the city's director of legal affairs, said his office is investigating the claim. Joe Falzone, a facilities manager in charge of maintaining city parks, said he is not aware of defects in the playground and there are no plans to make changes.

California May Relax Ban on Pet Ferrets

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Thanks to Arnold Schwarzenegger, there could be hope yet for ferrets, banned as pets in California for 70 years on fears they might weasel their way into the wild and ravage populations of ground-dwelling birds.

Some ferret owners believe the new governor, who worked with a ferret in "Kindergarten Cop," will sign legislation legalizing the animals.

"We have an inequity here and this man is sensitive to that kind of thing," said Jeanne Carley, founder of Californians for Ferret Legalization. "The state wildlife agency doesn't regulate cats and dogs, so why should it regulate ferrets?"

State Sen. Dede Alpert told the Los Angeles Times she hoped to move a legalization measure through the Assembly next year.

Schwarzenegger has been busy with other priorities, especially the state's multibillion-dollar fiscal mess. A spokeswoman refused to comment Saturday on what his stand might be on the ferret issue.



Sunday, December 28, 2003

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Chicago (7-9-0)	0	0	3	0	3
Kansas City (13-3-0) «	0	14	7	10	31

Final	1	2	3	4	T
St. Louis (12-4-0)	0	20	0	0	20
Detroit (5-11-0) «	3	7	17	3	30

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Jacksonville (5-11-0)	7	0	7	0	14
Atlanta (5-11-0) «	14	7	0	0	21

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Dallas (10-6-0)	0	7	0	0	7
New Orleans (8-8-0) «	3	7	3	0	13

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Carolina (11-5-0) «	17	13	7	0	37
NY Giants (4-12-0)	0	10	7	7	24

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Oakland (4-12-0)	0	14	0	0	14
San Diego (4-12-0) «	7	7	0	7	21

Final	1	2	3	4	OT	T
Pittsburgh (6-10-0)	0	0	10	0	0	10
Baltimore (10-6-0) «	7	0	0	3	3	13

Saturday, December 27, 2003

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Buffalo (6-10-0)	0	0	0	0	0
New England (14-2-0) «	14	14	0	3	31

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Philadelphia (12-4-0) «	7	14	7	3	31
Washington (5-11-0)	0	7	0	0	7

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Indianapolis (12-4-0) «	0	3	0	17	20
Houston (5-11-0)	0	10	7	0	17

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Cleveland (5-11-0) «	3	10	0	9	22
Cincinnati (8-8-0)	7	0	0	7	14

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Tampa Bay (7-9-0)	3	0	3	7	13
Tennessee (12-4-0) «	3	13	10	7	33

Final	1	2	3	4	T
NY Jets (6-10-0)	0	10	5	6	21
Miami (10-6-0) «	3	17	0	3	23








Final	1	2	3	4	T
Minnesota (9-7-0)	0	0	7	10	17
Arizona (4-12-0) «	3	3	0	12	18

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Denver (10-6-0)	0	0	3	0	3
Green Bay (10-6-0) «	7	3	7	14	31

Final	1	2	3	4	T
Seattle (10-6-0) «	0	14	7	3	24
San Francisco (7-9-0)	0	14	3	0	17

NFL WEEK 17 SCORES

Courtesy of NFL.com

KANDAHAR WEEKLY FORECAST						
Mon Dec 29	Tues Dec 30	Wed Dec 31	Thur Jan 01	Fri Jan 02	Sat Jan 03	Sun Jan 04
 DUST Mostly Cloudy With AM Dust	 Cloudy With PM Showers	 WINDY DUST Dusty and Windy	 DUST Dusty And Cold	 DUST Dusty And Cold	 DUST Less dust, More Sun	 Mostly Sunny And Warmer
HIGH	57	52	48	40	37	44
LOW	36	38	30	30	29	33
SUNRISE	0235	0235	0236	0236	0236	0236
SUNSET	1242	1243	1243	1244	1245	1246
KANDAHAR COMBAT WEATHER TEAM						

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at

Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com

